

ABSTRACT

5 An audio communications control system operates between multiple voice
communications systems and a single headset worn by an operator accessing the
multiple communications systems via voice transmission. The single headset includes
a left speaker, a right speaker, and a microphone for providing the operator with voice
transmission through an audio interface for operating between the audio
communications systems and the single headset. The audio interface provides an
electrical connection and operation with each of the voice communications systems,
even though each may operate with differing equipment and signal processing. The
audio interface switches discrete voice communications signals and routes them to
one of the left speaker, the right speaker, and conversely from the microphone of the
headset to any of selected systems. An operator control interface is operable with the
audio interface for controlling the routing and switching of the audio signals. A
graphical user interface is displayed on a monitor of a personal computer operable
with the operator control interface for displaying a selection of switching and routing
options to the operator. As a result, the operator needs only the single headset and
the graphical interface for a manual selection of the discrete audio communications
signals to be operable with the single headset. The communications control system is
especially effectiveness for training onboard ships by allowing the operator to handle
all shipboard communications, as well as access to a wide area network, without
removing his headset or moving from his console.